

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 10544 080941Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OMB-01 ACDA-07 EUR-12
DHA-02 MCT-01 EB-08 SIL-01 LAB-04 OPIC-03 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /099 W
-----029503 081207Z /53

R 080910Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2995
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, ID
SUBJECT: SECURITY PROBLEMS AT US-OWNED MINE IN IRIAN JAYA

REF: A) JAKARTA 9830, B) JAKARTA 7304

1. ALI BUDIARDJO, PRESIDENT OF FREEPORT INDONESIA, A SUB-SIDIARY OF U.S. FIRM FREEPORT MINERALS, WHICH OPERATES COPPER MINE IN IRIAN JAYA, HAD JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT TO IRIAN JAYA AND CALLED ON THE CHARGE AUGUST 5 TO PROVIDE A SECURITY UPDATE ON THE SITUATION AT THE MINE (SEE REF A).

2. GOI NOW HAS SOME 180 TROOPS IN THE VICINITY OF THE MINE,
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AND IS STILL TRANSFERRING FORCES INTO THE AREA. THE LOCAL COMMANDER INFORMED BUDIARDJO THAT HIS ORDERS WERE TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE FACILITIES AND THE PERSONNEL OF THE MINE, AND HE ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE ONE MONTH OF OPERATIONS TO RESTORE ORDER. GOI SECURITY FORCES ARE REPEATING THE TACTIC PREVIOUSLY USED IN BALIEM VALLEY DISORDERS (REF B) OF DESTROYING ABANDONED VILLAGES.

3. RECENT HOSTILE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO THE CUTTING OF THE 70-MILE PIPELINE WHICH CARRIES FREEPORT'S COPPER CONCENTRATE FROM THE MILL SITE TO PORT SITE. PIPELINE IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE, AND CUT TAKES THREE TO FOUR DAYS TO REPAIR. FREEPORT CONSIDERED SHUTTING DOWN ITS OPERATION, BUT HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE PRODUCTION. FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN RESUMED INTO THE NEARBY LANDING STRIP AT TIMIKA, AND LAND VEHICLES ARE MOVING FROM TIMIKA TO THE TOWN SITE AT TEMBAGAPURA VIA CONVOY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO PERSONNEL CASUALTIES.

4. INTERESTING NEW ELEMENT IS THAT HOSTILE FORCES ARE APPARENTLY MOSTLY LOCAL DAMAL TRIBESMEN; BALIEM VALLEY DISORDERS INVOLVED THAT BANI TRIBE. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY THREE OPM (ORGANIZERS PAPUA MERDEKA), PAPUA INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION, ORGANIZERS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE DAMAL. OPM ORGANIZERS ARE, AS WAS CASE WITH BALIEM VALLEY DISORDERS, COASTAL IRIANES.

RIVES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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